

Contents: below is a list of the genres the student has included in her project; between each genre, the student has created a sense of continuity and connection by inserting “tips” about being single.

Memoir
Book summary
Opinion essay (“Polemic”)
Opinion essay (“Paradoxical Ecomium”)
Personal ad (classified ad for newspaper)

Prologue:

Hello to all you singletons out there and welcome to the only handbook you’ll ever need on how to be a solitary girl with enjoyment. You will learn the top techniques on how to obtain and keep your single status while convincing others that you’re ok with being an independent woman. This step by step booklet will give you the top tips on how to act around guys, avoid their advances, scare them off, and the like. Now I know you’re thinking that being single is associated with an unshakable stigma, but I am here to promise the only attachment you will have will be to your freedom and autonomy.

To fully immerse yourself in being a proud single woman you have to take these instructions with an open mind--don’t be wary. Within days if you start on the techniques given to you, you will see an enormous difference in yourself and the people you surround yourself with. Just try and take the process one step at a time and enjoy your newly found pleasurable solo life.

Tip #1: Association is the key to success

Aim: how to keep the boys away before they even start

Surround yourself with friends who have boyfriends, are extremely skilled flirts, or hot as hell. The more of them you have--the better. Number one, the boys will flock to them like flies to

sugar water and steer clear from you. Number two, if you find yourself starting to fall for some cute boy that you think might be the one, one of your girlfriends will inevitably steal him--maybe not on purpose but they will work their charm without even realizing it and that boy, who would have ended up breaking your heart, will just get his broken by your best friend. Not to mention you're friends will be so busy with these boys that they'll be too busy to bug you about dating. Problem solved. Here's a small story to show you the effectiveness of this tip.

Memoir:

Throughout my nineteen years on earth I have not once been in an actual relationship. How is this possible you ask? It's not easy; well actually, it's not all that hard. The one thing I've always been able to say is that I've always had a good friend who is wanted by almost every guy that crosses her path. I have found that this not only keeps you free from boys, it almost makes you want them less.

In middle school there was Missy Hattle--the one girl wanted by every prepubescent boy at our school. She had long blonde hair, blue eyes, boobs, and a banging personality. I always loved her for her strong individuality and had known her since we were in preschool together. Through the years by her side I was always the tagalong in her little dating games and I didn't mind it, it was fun to vicariously live my social life through her even though she was the one actually living it. But at the time that was ok with me.

Then came along the seventh grade crush that would put an end to all seventh grade crushes--Joe. He was everything a 13 year old boy was supposed to be: gross, obnoxious, and annoying, but cute. And because I had decided to associate myself with Missy I was setting myself up for failure because, of course, by the end of my seventh grade year they started dating.

I now look back on it and laugh at how much petty drama there was in those years of my life. How much it upset me when really I was only 13 and it wasn't going to be the end of the world. But it's amazing at those times how something so small can dent you so unbelievably bad. So I picked up and moved on and Missy and I remained close acquaintances for the rest of our education.

After Missy there was Maureen Brown--and let me tell you, she put Missy to shame. It was my sophomore year and Moe and I had become extremely close by playing softball together. The summer after, we were inseparable. We spent every day together, every night on the phone, and every moment in-between chit chatting online. And although Moe and I were as close as any two people can be--we were polar opposites to begin with. Moe was a gorgeous, confident, and the most flirtatious creature you've ever met in your life. Not to mention, the thing with Moe was that she enjoyed the conquest of boys; to know she could have them was such a high for Moe that she would make sure by the end of Junior year she could have them all if she so chose. Moe liked the challenge and wanted anything that any one else wanted--including her best friend.

So there I was back again, a Sophomore in high school, still head-over-heels for that same seventh grade boy. And Moe knew it. So she made it her prerogative to make sure she was always there around us to help "set us up." But I was not stupid, I knew very well what her agenda was--I was just hoping she wasn't low enough to actually do it. But she was, Joe asked her to homecoming and she said yes. She ended up semi-dating him for the first half of our Junior year and I had to sit back and watch as she was still not satisfied with her situation. Eventually she moved on because, although Moe enjoyed getting men, she did not enjoy keeping them.

So once again, broken hearted by my best friend I realized that the reason this keeps happening is because I set myself up. Because I surround myself with these types of people who have such contagious and electrifying personalities that they also get picked up by these guys. And although these things happen to me I'm not bitter, I'm just smart enough now to realize exactly why this kind of thing kept on happening. So to all you singles out there that want to get the guys off you, take my advice and see exactly how to live a purely relationship free life.

Tip #2: Get Informed

Aim: how to ward off the jerk who thinks that you're lying about wanting to be single and won't give up

First off I would like to tell you the benefits of getting educated in the ways of the relationship world. Knowing statistics will not only confirm your reasons for wanting to be single, but you will be able to see the positives of your hard work. Not to mention, you'll be able to use them on your friends, family, and annoying men.

So you've been cornered at the library, coffee shop, grocery store, or any other place you enjoy being at without the company of a testosterone filled fool whose trying to tell you that the whole "I enjoy being single" line is a crock. So, you, being the smart single that you are have done your research and baffle with your statistics on divorce rates, the average age of marriage, how singles enjoy more freedom than married couples, and other statistics that will just ward him off immediately. This is usually reserved to the damn persistent ones who just wont take no for an answer, but I promise you that after you rattled off these statistics you will render them less than enticed at the prospect of dating you. This works famously and if you think about it--no one loves a pessimist. So even if you're not that upset about being single, pretending you are for five minutes will save you hours of hassle. Not to mention if you're creative--adlib, act bitchy, throw in a few extra facts for shits and giggles and I guarantee he will retreat with his tail between his legs. Take a look at this news article to get a few good effective statistics without the massive research on your own part.

Family Decay Is on the Rise

By: Johnny Nohitall

According to Rodney Stark, author of the text book *Sociology* and professor at the University of Washington, there has been an increasing decay in the modern family. In his chapter on family, Stark reveals that only 57% of Americans are very satisfied with their marriage and when you look at families of lower social economic status (SES), the number drops significantly. Stark blames this on the poor living conditions that poverty brings and the baggage included such as stress and constant anxiety.

The professor also goes on to say that divorce is still in full effect and that unhappily married men and women are finding a great outlet in freedom. According to Stark 20% of women (from all SES backgrounds and race) divorce after five years of marriage and that 43% will end their marriage after fifteen years. If we separate these women by race we see that Asian

women are at the bottom of the list for number of divorces while African American women are in the number one slot averaging at 55%. This number is almost *half* the U.S. population that is opting on ending their marriage for happier, healthier lives.

The majority of men and women who divorce will remarry within ten years but are much more likely to divorce in the future because they see it as a way out of their marriage turmoil. Second and third divorces are also more common if the spouses bring young children or marry within two years of their previous divorce.

And what causes this decline in marriage in the modern society--Stark blames it on the divorce laws becoming "much less restrictive" in recent times even though the original "legislation was to strengthen the family by permitting intolerable marriages to be dissolved." He also talks about romance and how it "[has become] a highly perishable commodity" and, lets face it folks, the opportunities to get divorced have increased.

So for you die hard romantics out there take a quick look at the crumbling world around you. Divorce is high, and you may soon find yourself in a situation that you figured would never be happening to you and your spouse. Stark ends with a few suggestions on how to increase your chances of marital survival by opening communication lines; marrying later in life; and having children at an older age. So grab your honey, have a nice long talk, and remember to wear a rubber till the time is right.

Tip #3: Queer eye for the straight girl

Aim: how to steer clear from the guys by pure association

Become extremely good friends with as many gay men as possible. Any girl in her right mind loves a gay guy. They are the most lovable people on earth. They will give you all the attention a girlfriend will and all the juicy talk sessions, but they will keep the heterosexual male at a distance. Even if your male companions are not flamboyantly expressive of their sexuality, many guys will be second guessing themselves if you have yourself surrounded by a pack of men. You will have oodles of fun discussing clothes, shoes, chick flicks, and boys without setting yourself up for sexual or emotional attachment. Just watch out for the bitchy ones.

Tip #4: It's the little things

Aim: how to avoid catching a guy's eye.

Avoid all forms of physical touch, eye contact, giggling, intense smiling, or any type of mild flirting. If a guy is semi interested he will jump at the sight of these slight green lights. The more you do it, the more reinforced they will be and the more they will think you are interested. It is best to act as "cool" as possible, and try to avoid very feminine scents that are associated with yummy lotions and seductive perfume. Not to mention a guy will always be intimidated by a woman who can eat more than him in one sitting. Now these things are good in doses but too much may lead to ultimate solitary sabotage.

Tip #5: Correct your mistakes

Aim: how to get out of a potential relationship.

So lets say that you somehow forgot about tip three or you just simply ignored it and gave 'em too much of a dose of girl and they fell for you. Here's what you do: first of all if you get a chance rent "How to Lose a Guy in Ten Days" it will give you the great viewpoints on how to drive off the opposite sex if they are anywhere near sanity. Second, apply these concepts which consist of acting wanty, needy, "loveey dovey", the art of baby talk, how to embarrass them in front of their buddies, and how to make them just absolutely miserable. If this man just absolutely does not respond to these easy to do tasks and you are drawn to something drastic, throw hygiene out the window--no one likes a smelly girl.

Tip # 6: Meeting people for friendship isn't as hard as it seems

Aim: how to meet new people like yourself without giving the wrong idea.

Join clubs, recreational sports teams, gyms, and other group related activities and it opens up the doors to meeting new people. It seems that you cannot be approached these days without feeling threatened or that there is some hidden agenda. With this tip you will be involving yourself in something you enjoy doing as well as meeting people who are there for the same reason. You will feel free to approach and be approached by anyone around you because you will be confident that it's just a genuine want of acquaintanceship. If you're a college student, get involved, it's an amazing way to meet people along with accomplishing a lot of really productive and proactive things. Be wary though, there are still the skeezeballs who will try and use these clubs as an excuse to meet chicks, but you can easily tell by their work ethic and demeanor that they are in it for reasons other than your own. Also, be forewarned about the facebook, there are those who have found countless friendships over the college run meeting site but you will be annoyed endlessly by the men trying to find cyber love. Here's a little sidebar to tell you a little bit of what I'm talking about.

Polemic:

So if you haven't heard the epidemic of www.thefacebook.com, you my friend, have been living under a friggen rock! So for those of you who have yet to be informed from the masses of this new masterful invention, the facebook (which is most widely used on college campuses) invites college students from around the country to hook up and proclaim their associations even though they are less than acquaintances. The facebook was created by a Harvard student named Mark Zuckerberg who wanted to allow students at Harvard to meet people around campus who lived in different residential housing. It is now used by millions of college students to proclaim their love to a picture of a person five states away that you will never ever meet.

So what's the problem you ask? You think I'm some antisocial nitwit who can't stand that fact that people are finding friends over the internet? Well you're wrong! I am an avid facebook user and have been since I moved up to Mt. Pleasant to start my student career. But what I'm bitter about is that the second I set up my profile announcing to the world and to every facebook user that I am single, I am constantly bombarded with instant messages, emails, messages and the like asking for my phone number, if I want to meet, and if will I be at the Wayside this evening? I'm sick of it. The main purpose for joining facebook was to meet people at my school and to be able to associate with people in my classes or whoever else I wouldn't have the pleasure of meeting in a school of this size. But no, I find myself constantly on guard now that I understand that the majority of men who are searching on facebook are looking for some quick ass or a booty call every now and again. Now I won't pretend that there aren't a few good men out there who are honestly just looking for a companion but I find myself almost paranoid at the thought that it's a cover for their final agenda.

So if you're one of those guys on facebook looking for a quick fix for you libido, go to the Wayside and shake it off. The facebook is something that has been turned into an online dating site for college students and that's not what it initially was intended for. I just want to meet the fine students of CMU with out the baggage and attachment of hidden intent. There were people hooking up before the internet, and before facebook, so get off your lazy ass and meet your quick fix gal in the flesh. And for those of you still wanting to meet friends and ask about last week's homework, I bow to you, because you are the saving grace for fed up facebook users like myself.

Tip #7: The joy of technology

Aim: stop the stalking and insistent pursuing before it starts.

Remember that handy dandy little thing called the caller ID? It is a single woman's godsend and if you use it to your advantage you will most definitely be sitting pretty in the land of loneliness. For example, if you are one of those girls who aren't assertive enough to flat out say "no" when a man asks for your number this will truly be your saving grace. Ok, so here's how it works, when a man asks for your number, immediately ask for his as well, store it in your phone with his name and possibly a little side note to tip you off that he is the creepy man you met at the bar this past weekend. Now whenever he calls you will automatically have the name and side note appear on your cell phone caller ID and you won't be confused by the random number calling you on the other end. With this tip you will avoid the awkward conversations that go no where because, let's face, you were no where near interested in the first place. So thank the caller ID for its pure practicality and ingenious. If you're still unsure of the effectiveness take a look at this side note on how amazing such a small contraption can be.

Paradoxical Encomium:

There are quite a few people who actually have the privilege and the knowledge to talk of the genius that is the caller ID, and I am frankly not one of them. With that said, I will try and give this twentieth century invention half as much credit it deserves, but I realize that no words could justify the pure greatness of such an instrument. The birth of such a masterful object has to be praised as a momentous occasion because the caller ID has given people so much and asked for so little in return. It has given the stalked and annoyed the option to say "no" for

almost of a decade now. The caller ID has been hailed as the phone's best companion and agreed on by all its patrons because it is the most widely add-on feature of the telecommunication industry in history.

The caller ID was born in Japan in 1976 to the proud father, Mr. Kazuo Hashimoto but was scandalously kidnapped by the U.S. phone company AT&T and paraded around North America for all to see. After being displayed to the public America fell in love with the orphan and praised it for its ingenious efforts to display any incoming call and name for all to see. Before the caller ID many hoped and prayed for such a device that would allow them complete and utter control over the brain-racking decision to answer the phone for fear of what was on the other end. Fortune tellers told of a great coming of the "all-telling one" who would be able to tell us so much about people miles away. People called it an impossible feat but when all were reassured of its existence no one could obtain this knowledge fast enough.

At first the caller ID was praised for its showing of status. The phrase "Oh, you have caller ID," was followed by a sense of swelling pride to those proud and few who could obtain such an advanced form of technology. Everyone wanted it. It protected the annoyed and busy from the dreaded telemarketer and gave us peace of mind when we weren't in the mood to talk to mom. Unfortunately, as the price dropped and as the masses bought and used this device, as with any easily obtainable object, the want for such a luxurious accommodation dropped dramatically. Its beauty overlooked, the caller ID felt ordinary and mundane. The self-esteem of the caller ID dropped dramatically and the once highly regarded gray box that sat next to your phone became an unnoticed treasure. But what did the caller ID do? It came back full force and triumphantly in a new hybrid form that brought the caller ID swarming back into the hearts of millions. This hybrid form of the once beloved caller ID was something that no one in their

wildest dreams could have ever imagined--a phone *with* caller ID attached in the casing. The masses swarmed, the tears flowed, and the caller ID was once again adored.

The caller ID had finally received and re-received the recognition it deserved in full force. Of the greatest accomplishments of the twentieth century we will always remember the great feats of mankind: space travel, the internet, and the caller ID to name just a few. It possess such a large technical feat and brought the world to aw and reverie. This technical masterpiece has been planted in the hearts of millions for the choice of privacy and complete communication control. If we all possessed a fraction of the knowledge of the caller ID, think of the amazing feats the human race could accomplishment. Its precision in delivering information and the efficiency in which it gets the job done is something to be admired. I will never forget the first time I laid on the beautiful and talented caller ID, and I will never forget how it made me cry out in joy. I will always be grateful for the power and piece of mind it has provided me for the last decade and I will continue to bow in its glory for the rest of my days.

Tip #8: False advertisement

Aim: convince your friends you're looking for a guy and keeping them away at the same time.

Are you get sick of your friends worrying about you being all alone on a Friday night when they are out with their significant other, wanting you to be a tagalong on their third wheel dates, or keep trying to set you up with their less than attractive and intelligent cousins? Here's a little tip to ward them off; tell them you've entered an ad in the single want ad's. They will peak at your enthusiasm for trying to meet new people and will get off your back for a decent amount of time so you can go back to whatever you enjoy doing in peace and quiet.

Now to write this effect/non-effective ad you need to know a few things. First, you must think of the most truly awful characteristics that's stigmatized with a wanty, needy, woman. Second, ask for unobtainable requirements in your potential love interest, and lastly use a telephone number exactly like your own minus the last number. This last tip, first of all helps you avoid the crazies who might actually answer this fabricated ad and, second, gives you leeway in case your friends find and read your ad, at which point you will yell "Those stupid ad people and their typos!" Its fail proof! Trust me.

See example:

“Short blonde 5’2” looking for tall brown haired man who can bench press 350 so they can defend me when I get into bar fights. Wants someone who will participate in my weekly hotdog eating contests and will return my calls at all hours of the night. Prefer someone with a part time job so they can give me more attention and a weakness for men who love chick flicks. Ph: 248-555-5555.”

Tip #9: You are a single heterosexual...no really

Aim: how to keep your friends from guessing your sexual identity

With all this single talk going on you might find yourself being questioned by your friends about your true sexual identity. No worries, just keep you’re cool and I’ll tell you exactly what you need to know. First off, just because you are single doesn’t mean you can’t find men attractive, so let them know every once in a while when you spot a man that catches your eye. Don’t over use this tip because it might counter act the effect or may make you seem horridly desperate for a relationship. Secondly, go for men that are unavailable; for example, you point out to your friends how drop dead gorgeous that man at the bar is when, in fact, you’ve already spotted his significant other or his wedding ring. Thirdly, every now and again when you accidentally get yourself in a situation where an exchange of numbers is inevitable, make sure you’re friends are aware. For instance, be like “That man totally asked for my number, should I give it to him?” and they will sit back and watch the exchange as you totally pull a tip #6. If those suggestions still don’t get their attention, go out and party one night, get slightly intoxicated, and slip some good looking guy the tongue and your problems will be solved--hands down.

Tip #10: You are the only person you’ll ever truly need

Aim: showing you how being single can make you healthy and happy

So now for the most important tip of all; be yourself. Do not change your life for the sake of being single. These tips are adaptable to all walks of life and you should not have to compromise who you are for one facet of your life. Be happy with your position and enjoy the freedom that being single gives you. Travel, work on your education, your career, your friends and family--there are so many areas of your life that you can improve upon without the affection of a man. And yes, there will be times when you want nothing more than be able to curl up on the couch with your hunny, but true love can wait, and you will know that when you feel those butterfly’s you can chuck solitude out the window. But until then, bask in the glory of you and pamper and improve yourself the best you can. Enjoy life, because you are the WOMAN!

Epilogue:

So now that you're on your way to single success keep in mind the key points; be who you are and allow yourself to grow as a person independent of those petty relationships. Once you start applying the techniques given to you, you will see an astounding difference in your quality of life. Along with keeping men at bay, these tips will get you involved, help you meet new friends, and keep your life interesting and fun. So if you're still a bit skeptical I must say that you should at least start small, make it nonchalant, and the little bit of positive feedback you have will make these tips irresistible. So please, for your sake alone, give it a try. You deserve the freedom and happiness you get from being a lone soul. Follow your heart and your passions and when the time is right you'll know when the single life is done with you. But for now, without that spark, remember how much it sucks to have a blind date.